

**THE SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS AND VIEJAS BAND OF KUMEYAAAY INDIANS
OPEN NEW HOTEL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Marriott Residence Inn Capitol Marks Completion of First Multi-Tribe Economic Development

Washington, D.C. – March 3, 2005 – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, in conjunction with two other Indian Tribes and non-tribal partners, announced the official grand opening of a \$43 million Residence Inn Capitol by Marriott at a blessing ceremony held today in Washington, D.C. Today's ceremony included remarks from tribal leaders as well as Marriott International Chairman and CEO, J.W. Marriott, Jr., signaling the official opening of the 13-story, 233-suite property within walking distance of the new Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian.

The completion of the hotel marks the culmination of the first joint business venture for Four Fires LLC, an economic partnership of four tribes: San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians of Southern California, Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin and the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin. This partnership represents the largest business investment collaboration for American Indian tribes in history. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians have positioned this venture as a viable business model for other tribes in their pursuit of collaborating and developing partnerships to realize economic development and diversify their economic futures.

“The grand opening of the hotel marks a positive step forward for all tribal nations, demonstrating through example how we are witnessing a new economic paradigm for American Indians nationwide,” said Deron Marquez, Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. “The birth of multi-tribal financial endeavors and the coming together to combine resources has finally given rise to something long absent in Indian Country...large-scale investment opportunities with the promise of long-term return.”

“The Four Fires’ investment partnership of four Indian Nations takes tribes full circle to pre-contact days, when we were in charge of our own economic destinies,” Viejas Chairman Anthony R. Pico, said. “It represents trade economies that sustained tribes for thousands of years. This tribal partnership allows us to overcome our lack of land and other limitations, including investment capital. Nations once free to unite and share resources, have again found the means and will to reach across the great voids of forced separation that have isolated us for hundreds of years.”

Three of the Four Fires joint-venture-partners – the San Manuel, Viejas and Oneida Tribes – and Marriott International are continuing this alliance with the construction of a Residence Inn in Sacramento, Calif. Three Fires, LLC and their investment partners held a December 2004, ground breaking ceremony on the \$53 million, 239-suite hotel which is located on the last private land adjacent to Capitol Park, site of California’s Legislative and executive government offices.

Additionally, in support of the tribes’ economic diversification efforts, this week’s issue of *Fortune* magazine, features the recent efforts by Four Fires, LLC and the group’s goals for developing partnerships to realize economic development and diversification.

The new Resident Inn Capitol is located at 333 E Street, SW, just three blocks from both the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and the Capitol.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Descendents of the Serrano Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians inhabited a territory spanning the San Bernardino Mountains, valley and adjoining desert lands for centuries. Today, the tribe is located on the San Manuel Reservation near Highland, Calif. Like other tribal lands in the United States, the San Manuel Reservation is a sovereign nation with its own system of government and tribal laws. The tribe operates the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino and the San Manuel Bottled Water Group, in addition to managing a variety of

economic ventures. A partner in the community, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians actively contributes to a variety of projects in neighboring areas. Nearby cities and towns receive support from the tribe in the way of monetary and bottled water donations for cultural, social, and economic projects to benefit the common good of the communities in which the tribe's members live and work.

About the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay traces their history back 10,000 years. The Viejas reservation is located in the rural community of Alpine, 30 miles from the City of San Diego. A federally recognized tribe, and sovereign government, the Viejas Band governs in accord with the band's customs and traditions.

The tribe owns and operates two recreational vehicle parks, a campground and the 13-year old Viejas Casino. In addition, the Viejas Band was one of the first American Indian bank owners, buying majority shares of Borrego Springs Bank N.A., and recently purchasing outstanding shares to become the sole owner of the federally chartered bank. In 1998, the Viejas Band opened the 35-acre, \$55 million-Viejas Outlet Center, featuring six restaurants and 57 upscale, retail outlet stores. Viejas Enterprises employs over 3,000, and purchased more than \$76 million locally in goods and services in 2003. The Enterprises and Tribal government annually contributes millions of dollars annually to more than 600 charities and local neighboring community, school and civic programs.

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